

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any specific one of the series of plays, the single wager being an amount made by any player an amount that is independent of the player playing the wagering game such that different players pay the same amount;

in response to the single wager, providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

randomly generating at least one outcome of each play in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, at least some of the outcomes providing first awards to the player; and

providing an accumulation feature that accumulates an a game-play element of the game over a plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated game-play element providing a second award to the player in response to a predetermined criterion being met, the accumulation feature is reset to include no accumulated game-play elements prior to each purchased series of plays.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion is selected from a group consisting of slots, poker, keno, bingo, blackjack, and roulette.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the accumulation feature is triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated element is represented by a position on a trail, ladder, or meter.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the position identifies a credit amount, a multiplier, a number of free plays of the basic portion, a bonus round, or movement to another position on the trail, the ladder, or the meter.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated game-play element is a collected object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including triggering a bonus in response to collection of a predetermined number of the object during the series of plays.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each play includes at least one respective random event that is independent of other plays in the series.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the game includes the basic portion and a bonus feature triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion, the at least one random event being associated with the basic portion.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each play includes at least one random event that is interdependent of one or more other plays in the series.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the game includes the basic portion and a bonus feature triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion, the at least one random event being associated with the bonus feature.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including redeeming, prior to the completion of the series of plays, the accumulated game-play element for the second award in response to a the predetermined criterion event in the series of plays being met, and after the bonus is complete, returning to the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game until completion.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined criterion event corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the accumulated game-play element.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined criterion event corresponds to a certain position of the element on a trail, ladder, or meter.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion includes a slot game having a plurality of symbol-bearing reels that, during each play in the series, are spun and stopped to place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion includes a draw poker game having a plurality of playing cards that, during each play in the series, are dealt from a deck and selectively replaced with substitute cards from the deck.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game comprising:
means for receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any specific one of the series of plays, the single wager being an amount made by any player that is independent of the players playing the wagering game such that different players pay the same amount;
means, responsive to the single wager, for providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

means for randomly generating at least one outcome for each play of the basic portion of the wagering game, the outcomes being indicated by symbol combinations displayed to the player; and

an accumulation feature that accumulates an element of the game over a plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated element involving the symbol combinations that are indicative of the outcomes achieved in the basic portion of the game and the accumulated element not being related to the credit amount associated with the outcomes, the accumulation feature is reset to include no accumulated elements prior to each purchased series of plays, the accumulation feature (i) permitting the player to play a bonus game before completing the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game in response to accumulation of a predetermined number of accumulated elements and (ii) returning to the basic portion of the game to

continue playing the series of plays associated with the single wager until all the plays have been completed.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion is selected from a group consisting of slots, poker, keno, bingo, blackjack, and roulette.
27. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 26, wherein the accumulation feature is triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion.
28. (Currently Amended) The machine of claim 25, wherein the accumulated element is represented by a position on a trail, ladder, or meter.
29. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 28, wherein the position identifies a credit amount, a multiplier, a number of free plays of the basic portion, a bonus round, or movement to another position on the trail, the ladder, or the meter.
30. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein the accumulated element is a collected object.
31. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 30, further including means for triggering the bonus game in response to collection of a predetermined number of the object during the series of plays.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein each play includes at least one respective random event that is independent of other plays in the series.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein each play includes at least one random event that is interdependent of one or more other plays in the series.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, further including means for redeeming the accumulated element for the bonus game in response to a predetermined event in the game.
38. (Original) The machine of claim 37, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the element.
39. (Original) The machine of claim 37, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to a certain position of the element on a trail, ladder, or meter.
40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion includes a slot game having a plurality of symbol-bearing reels that, during each play in the series, are spun and stopped to place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area.
42. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion includes a draw poker game having a plurality of playing cards that, during each play in the series, are dealt from a deck and selectively replaced with substitute cards from the deck.
43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including
redeeming the accumulated game-play element for a bonus event in response to a predetermined event criterion before completing the series of plays;
playing the bonus event; and
continuing the series of plays.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the predetermined event criterion corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the accumulated element.
45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated game-play element is a number of consecutive winning symbol combinations achieved in the basic game, the second award being a credit amount corresponding to the number of consecutive winning symbol combinations.
46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated game-play element is a total value of credits being awarded as the first awards to the player for outcomes achieved in the basic game when a randomly appearing hold-bonus symbol is present during the outcomes that resulted in the first awards in the basic game, the second award being a credit amount related to the total value of credits achieved when the randomly appearing hold-bonus symbol is present during the series of plays.
47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated game-play element is a number of occurrences of a certain winning symbol combination achieved in the basic game, the second award being an enhancement of a credit amount corresponding to the certain winning symbol combination, the enhancement corresponding to the number of the certain winning symbol combination that has previously occurred during the series of plays.
48. (New) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

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receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any specific one of the series of plays;

in response to the single wager, providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

randomly generating at least one outcome of each play in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the outcomes being indicated by symbol combinations on a display;

awarding at least a first award to the player for a winning outcome indicated by a winning symbol combination;

accumulating a game-play element in an accumulation feature during the plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated game-play element being associated with the symbol combinations that are displayed during the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated game-play element not being associated with a credit value corresponding to winning symbol combinations achieved by the player;

awarding a second award to the player for the accumulation feature in response to a predetermined criterion being met for the accumulated game-play element; and

resetting the accumulation feature to include no accumulated game-play elements prior to the next purchased series of plays.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the awarding of the second award occurs in a separate bonus game that is displayed to the player.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the accumulation feature includes a second game-play element that can be accumulated and further including,

accumulating the second game-play element during the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, and

awarding another award to the player in response to another predetermined criterion being met for the second accumulated game-play element.

51. (New) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any specific one of the series of plays, the single wager being an amount made by any player such that different players pay the same amount;

in response to the single wager, providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

randomly generating at least one outcome of each play in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the outcomes being indicated by symbol combinations on a display;

accumulating an element in an accumulation feature during the plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated game-play element involving the symbol combinations that are displayed during the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulated game-play element not being related to the credit amount associated with the winning symbol combinations achieved by the player;

before completing the series of plays of the basic portion of wagering game, permitting the player to play a bonus game in response to a predetermined criterion being met for the accumulated element;

after completion of the bonus game, returning to the basic portion of the game to continue playing the series of plays associated with the single wager until all plays have been completed; and

resetting the accumulation feature to include no accumulated game-play elements prior to the next purchased series of plays.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further including awarding first awards for winning outcomes in the basic portion of the game and awarding an additional bonus award associated with the bonus game.